

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 2

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,024,606 to Ming-Hwa. This determination is respectfully traversed.

The scope and content of Ming-Hwa reference, as well as the respective positions of the Examiner and Applicant, have been discussed during prosecution of the present application. Applicant has outlined distinctions between the claimed subject matter and the disclosure of Ming-Hwa which shows, in Applicant's opinion, that the Ming-Hwa reference is not anticipatory of the present claims.

In addressing Applicant's arguments, the Examiner states as follows:

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1, 11 and 17, that the Ming-Hwa reference doesn't show the sleeve (13) having at least one protrusion (16), Applicant's attention is directed to Figs. 1-2 in which the Ming-Hwa reference clearly discloses the sleeve (13) having at least one protrusion (16). Applicant is also reminded that Column 3, Lines 6-15 of the Ming-Hwa reference also clearly states that the protrusion (16) are formed on each claiming section (14) and separated by grooves (14'). Therefore, it is the Examiner's opinion that the Ming-Hwa reference would meet Applicant's claims in their broadest interpretation.

The Examiner contends that the Ming-Hwa reference, in Figures 1 and 2, discloses a sleeve 13 having at least one protrusion. Also, the Examiner noted that the protrusions 16 are

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 3

separated by a groove 14' (a term not used in the Ming-Hwa specification). However, contrary to the Examiner's assumption, nowhere in the Ming-Hwa reference is it clearly described that the groove 14' separates the protrusions 16 into separate radially spaced elements.

Claim 1 clearly sets forth that the protrusion on the locking sleeve partially encircles less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. From the drawings of Ming-Hwa, it appears that the protrusion 16 formed on locking sleeve 13 extends fully circumferentially around the locking sleeve. The Examiner can point to no portion of the Ming-Hwa specification, nor drawings, which clearly discloses that the protrusion encircles less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. The "groove 14'" is not described at all.

In fact, the Ming-Hwa reference appears to suggest just the opposite. Both the abstract and claim 1 of Ming-Hwa recite that the projecting shoulder is annular. Unless the projection 16 of Ming-Hwa fully encircles the locking sleeve, it would not be defined as annular and, therefore, claim 1 of Ming-Hwa would not be supported by this specification. Thus, Ming-Hwa appears to show a fully annular projection rather than a protrusion extending less than the full circumference as recited in instant claim 1.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 4

The Examiner is reminded that for a reference to be anticipatory, each and every element of the claimed invention must be disclosed in the prior art reference. *In re Paulson*, 30 F.3d 1475, 31 USPQ 2d. 1671 (Fed. Cir. 1994). In offering an anticipation rejection, almost is not good enough. A prior art disclosure that almost meets the limitations of the claims does not anticipate. *Connell v. Sears & Roebuck Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Accordingly, failing to find anywhere in the Ming-Hwa reference, a disclosure of the projecting shoulder extending less than a full circumference around the locking sleeve, Ming-Hwa as a matter of law cannot be anticipatory of claim 1.

Turning now to independent claim 11, a connector for terminating a coaxial cable includes a locking sleeve having a plurality of protrusions spaced circumferentially and evenly formed thereon. Similar arguments presented with claim 1 are equally applicable here.

Claim 11 clearly recites that protrusions must be spaced apart and evenly formed. As noted above, the Examiner has not found any recitation in the Ming-Hwa patent which indicates that the protrusion 16 extends less than fully circumferentially around the locking sleeve. Therefore, the Ming-Hwa reference could not show spaced circumferential and evenly formed

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 5

protrusions. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Ming-Hwa cannot be anticipatory of claim 11.

With respect to independent claim 17, a connector is recited which includes a connector body having a cable receiving end and a locking sleeve. The locking sleeve is insertably received in the cable receiving end of the connector body. Ming-Hwa operates in a fashion which is directly opposite to that of the invention claimed in claim 17. As pointed out to the Examiner, the male clamping tube 10 is inserted into the female clamping tube 20 (as indicated by the use of the nomenclature “male and female”). This arrangement is directly opposite that claimed in independent claim 17 where the locking sleeve is received in the connector body. The Examiner is referred to Applicant’s previous arguments detailing the comparison between the structural elements claimed in claim 17 and the elements of the Ming-Hwa connector.

In order for a reference to be anticipatory, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the patent claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ 2d. 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The Ming-Hwa reference does not show the identical invention, as Ming-Hwa works in a fashion which is directly opposite that of the claimed invention. Therefore, as a matter of law, Ming-Hwa cannot anticipate the claims.

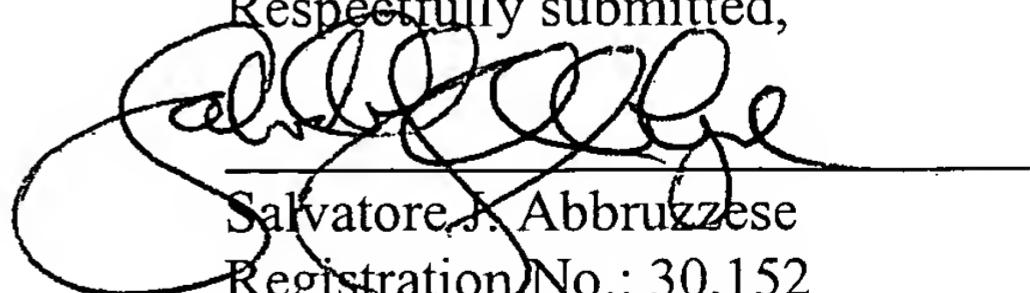
Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 6

The Examiner has only offered anticipation rejections with respect to these claims. Having pointed out the limitations of the claims which are not found in the Ming-Hwa reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-20, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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